

Message Text

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SF

SUBJECT: STUDENT GROUP: MID-TOUR ASSESSMENT

1. CU/AF OFFICER MET WITH STUDENT LEADERS TODAY BEFORE SWING ACROSS COUNTRY. BLACK STUDENTS AND MENDELOWITZ ARE QUITE PLEASED WITH PROGRAMS SO FAR IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK. TWO AFRIKAANERS, ON OTHER HAND, FEEL THEY WERE MISLED ABOUT FOCUS OF TOUR AND THAT PROGRAMMING HAS NOT BEEN BALANCED. THEIR MAIN COMPLAINTS ARE THAT THEY THOUGHT TOTAL OBJECTIVE OF TRIP WAS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH AMERICAN STUDENTS (AND THEY SOMEHOW SEEM TO THINK THESE DISCUSSIONS WOULD REVOLVE AROUND SUCH SUBJECTS AS SCHOOL CAFETERIAS AND DANCES) AND THAT REGARDLESS OF THE FORMAT OR FORUM THEY ARE CONSTANTLY BEING "GRILLED" ABOUT APARTHEID. THEY REPORTEDLY MENTIONED THIS TO AMB. BOTHA IN A GROUP MEETING WITH HIM AND ALSO TOLD HIM THE TWO COLORED STUDENTS WERE EMBARRASSING THEM BY THEIR OUTSPOKEN CRITICISM OF SAG BEFORE AMERICANS.

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2. CU/AF OFFICER TOLD AFRIKAANERS THAT PURPOSE OF TOUR WAS TWO-WAY EXCHANGE, FOR THEM TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AMERICAN LIFE AND INSTITUTIONS IN GENERAL, AND IN PARTICULAR THE ROLE OF YOUTH AND NOT NECESSARILY JUST YOUTH ON CAMPUSES, AND VICE-VERSA. THEY WERE REMINDED THAT NEXUS OF U.S.-

S.A. MUTUAL CONCERNS IS THE RACIAL ISSUE AND THAT DISCUSSION OF THAT SUBJECT WAS UNAVOIDABLE. THEY WERE ALSO REMINDED THAT MUCH OF STAY IN L.A. WOULD BE AT UCLA AND USC (FULL DAYS EACH) AND WERE PROMISED THAT USYC WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ADD TWO CAMPUSES AT NEW ORLEANS, THE NEXT STOP.

3. FYI: PLANNED STOP AT UNIV. OF INDIANA WAS DROPPED BECAUSE GWEN CARTER IS IN FLORIDA THIS TERM. NORTHWESTERN UNIV., WHICH HAD ORIGINALLY AGREED TO HOST GROUP, CANCELLED AFTER DECIDING THAT ONE AFRICAN DID NOT MAKE GROUP REPRESENTATIVE OF COUNTRY. SO FAR GROUP HAS BEEN TO GEORGETOWN AND A.U. IN WASHINGTON AND COLUMBIA IN N.Y.C. AND MET NUMEROUS OTHER KINDS OF YOUTH GROUPS. ALL DAY TODAY, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS SPENT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF NUMEROUS YOUTH GROUPS AT A USYC SYMPOSIUM ON "U.S. AND THE THIRD WORLD." THE ESCORT HAS BEEN ADVISED WHENEVER AND WHEREVER POSSIBLE TO TRY KEEP DISCUSSIONS IN WHATEVER FORMAT EVENLY DIVIDED BETWEEN U.S. AND S.A. ISSUES, AND NOT JUST ON APARTHEID. GIVEN THE DISPARATE BACKGROUNDS AND RACIAL AND POLITICAL DIFFERENCES, WE BELIEVE PROGRAM HAS ABOUT AS MUCH "BALANCE" AS CAN BE HOPED FOR.

4. HAS POST RECEIVED USYC PROGRAM ITINERARY VIA POUCH? INGERSOLL

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